

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 588
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

RAIL LINE BETWEEN PUDUKKOTTAI AND THANJAVUR

588 SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Central Government for construction of a new railway line between Pudukkottai and Thanjavur, the survey for which was completed before independence; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 588 BY SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 29.11.2024 REGARDING RAIL LINE BETWEEN PUDUKKOTTAI AND THANJAVUR

(a) and (b): Railway projects/surveys are not sanctioned State-wise/District-wise/Region-wise/Constituency-wise, but sanctioned Zone wise as Indian Railways' projects may span across State boundaries/Parliamentary Constituencies. Railway projects are taken up Zonal Railway-wise on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

Railway Infrastructure Projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are covered under Southern Railway (SR), South Central Railway (SCR) and South Western Railway (SWR) zone of Indian Railways. Zone-wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain.

As on 01.04.2024, 22 projects (10 new lines, 03 Gauge conversions and 09 Doubling) of total length of 2,587 Km, costing ₹33,467 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which 665 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹7,153 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Expenditure upto March 2024 (₹in Cr.)
New line	10	872	24	1,223
Gauge Conversion	03	748	604	3,267
Doubling/ Multitracking	09	967	37	2,664
Total	22	2,587	665	7,153

Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in Tamil Nadu is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹879 crore/year
2024-25	₹6,362 crore (more than 7 times)

...2/-

Railway acquires the land through State Government and the completion of a railway projects is dependent of land acquisition. However, Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in Tamil Nadu is as under:

Total Land required for Projects in Tamil Nadu	3389 Ha
Land Acquired	866 Ha (26%)
Balance Land to be acquired	2523 Ha (74%)

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Tamil Nadu.

Thanjavur and Pudukkottai are already connected via Tiruchirapalli Jn. However for direct connectivity between Thanjavur and Pudukkottai, survey was carried out but project could not be taken forward due to low traffic projection.

The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. and all these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project(s).
